

Message Text

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ADP-00 H-01 NSC-06 SS-07 RSR-01 RSC-01

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R 180700Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3507

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DHAHRAN 0657

E.O. 116)2: GDS

TAGS: OREP, SA

SUBJECT: CODEL SIKES

1. CODEL ARRIVED AUG 14, 1973 AS SCHEDULED FOR COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING ON THE POLITICAL/MILITARY SITUATION OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA AND ARAMCO SEMINAR ON THE ENERGY CRISIS. ARAMCO SENIOR MANAGEMENT PRESENTED ENERGY OUTLOOK AS SEEN FROM DHAHRAN AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO WIDER CONTEXT OF AMERICAN REGIONAL INTERESTS AND ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT. CONGRESSMAN SIKES PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SEEKING ARAMCO'S VIEWS REGARDING US ENERGY NEEDS FROM MIDDLE EASTERN SOURCES AND EFFECT UPON THEIR AVAILABILITY VIS-A-VIS REGIONAL CONFLICTS. SIKES EXPRESSED INTEREST IN LOOK AT ARAMCO PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND OFFICIALS AGREEABLY PROVIDED COMPANY PLANE EARLY MORNING AUGUST 15 FOR OVERFLIGHT OF EASTERN PROVINCE OPERATIONS, AND SUBSEQUENTLY FLEW CODEL AND AIDE TO BAHRAIN FOR MEETING WITH RULER.

2. COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING FOCUSED ON US-SAUDI MILITARY PROGRAMS AND U.S. GOVERNMENT POLITICAL/ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT. POINTED OUT THAT LARGE SAUDI INVESTMENT WILLINGNESS TO SHOULDER PENINSULAR RESPONSIBILITIES.

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3. SIKES APPEARED TO APPROACH REGIONAL PROBLEMS WITH OPEN MIND. ESCORT OFFICER NOTED THAT MEETINGS WITH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS IN CAIRO HAD SHARPENED CONGRESSMAN'S AWARENESS OF ARAB ANTAGONISM TOWARDS ASPECTS OF U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY.

4. SIKES PROVIDED WITH BRIEF TOUR COLLEGE OF PETROLEUM AND MINERALS AND SHORT SHOPPING LOUR OF AL-KHOBAR. ARAMCO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER HOSTED STAG DINNER EVENING AUGUST 14.

5. COMMENT: ARAMCO OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT SIKES WAS MOST RECEPTIVE OF ALL RECENT CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS TO ARAMCO'S BRIEFING ON THE ENERGY CRISIS AND IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ARAMCO SENIOR MANAGEMENT. ON DEPARTURE DHAHRAN, CODEL COMMENTED TO ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER THAT HE HIGHLY PLEASED WITH ENTIRE VISIT.MARTIN

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